



# **MINGA HOUSE**

## **Chinchina Bilingüe 2026**

### **Colegio Menfis**

#### **Factors for Success!**

**What activities and what type of support does your son or daughter already have?**

**Simply having one hour of English per day at Colegio Menfis is not enough for your children to become bilingual. Both the school and your family must work together to incorporate many additional activities and factors to achieve this goal. Colegio Menfis and Minga House Foundation are committed to long-term development and to incorporating the following components into Chinchiná Bilingüe:**

- 1. Long-term bilingual Colombian teachers with specialized training in bilingual education methodologies.**
- 2. Native English-speaking teachers as cultural ambassadors and bilingual support for Colombian teachers.**
- 3. A curriculum aligned with the standards of the Caldas Departmental Secretary of Education and international standards.**
- 4. English proficiency level certification for students who achieve it.**
- 5. English is integrated across all subjects, especially in experiential classes such as visual arts and physical education.**



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- 6. Chinchiná Bilingüe events: Spelling Bee, English Songs Festival, Debate Club, Bilingual Tour Guide Challenge, English Immersion Theater, International Chess Club, United Nations, Ambassador Program, Scouts, and more.**
- 7. English classes for parents and teachers.**
- 8. English Language Exchange – free of charge!**
- 9. Family immersion activities and events in English at school and in the community.**
- 10. Annual vacation trip to an English-speaking destination (December or January).**
- 11. Annual international student exchange trip.**
- 12. Strategic partnerships with private preschools integrating English programs.**
- 13. Worldschooling – temporary and permanent foreign families.**
- 14. Host families for international homestays.**
- 15. Volunteer native English-speaking teaching assistants.**
- 16. Sister schools in the USA and Canada for collaborative projects and student and teacher exchanges.**



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17. Intensive, playful English immersion programs during school vacations.
  18. Small class sizes.
  19. Development plan to reach Grade 11 and graduate with a B1 level of English.
  20. College-preparatory academic plan aligned with U.S. university entrance standards.
  21. Financial sustainability guaranteed by Minga House Foundation to continue investing in scholarships, infrastructure, technology, and training.
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## **Chinchiná Bilingüe 2025**

### **Typical Elements of a Successful Bilingual School Program**

**Successful bilingual school programs are essential to developing proficiency in two languages. The following factors significantly contribute to their success:**

#### **Qualified and Trained Educators:**

**Teachers must be proficient in both languages and have specialized training in bilingual education methodologies.**

- **Dr. Sergio Páez – Academic Council and Academic Leader**



- **Carolina Murillo – English Coordinator**
- **Anya, Libby, Michelle, Nicholas, Dan, and others – rotating team of 4–5 volunteer native English-speaking teachers, renewed every three months**

**National and international partner organizations support ongoing professional development to keep teachers up to date with research and best practices.**

**Comprehensive Curriculum:**

**A well-designed curriculum integrating both languages across multiple subjects.**

- ***The Power of 3***
- **State of Massachusetts dual immersion language program**

**Culturally relevant materials are included to promote cultural awareness and appreciation alongside language skills.**

**Community-Wide Programs and Events:**

- **Spelling Bee**
- **English Songs Festival**
- **English Debate Clubs**
- **Bilingual Tour Guide Challenge**



- **International Chess Club**
- **International Scouts**
- **English Immersion Camps during school vacations**

#### **Early Implementation:**

**Bilingual education begins early—ideally in preschool or kindergarten—to take advantage of children’s natural language acquisition abilities.**

#### **Focus on Primary Education:**

- **Partnerships with private and public preschools**
- **Continuous exposure to both languages throughout students’ academic journeys**

**Chinchiná Bilingüe creates relevance, immediate application, and daily expectations and opportunities to practice English.**

**English is integrated into Physical Education and Visual Arts classes, all school events, classroom management language, and overall campus culture—creating a fully immersive bilingual environment.**

#### **Parent and Community Involvement:**

- **English classes for parents**
- **Ongoing family events and activities**



- **Saturday English language exchange**
- **Interaction with short-term volunteers**
- **Worldschooling Hub activities**

**Active collaboration with the Mayor's Office, Secretary of Education, Chamber of Commerce, SENA, local industry, and local universities.**

#### **Clear Goals and Evaluation:**

- **Guided by the Caldas Secretary of Education toward official bilingual school status**
- **Regular assessments to monitor student progress and inform instructional adjustments**
- **Ongoing evaluations involving students and parents**

#### **Supportive Learning Environment:**

- **Inclusive, encouraging bilingual and bicultural atmosphere**
- **Access to bilingual resources such as books, multimedia tools, and language-specific materials**
- **Children's English reading books**

#### **Diverse Instructional Strategies:**



- **Immersion, dual-language instruction, and content-based language teaching**
- **Flexibility to accommodate different learning styles and proficiency levels**
- **Differentiated instruction**

#### **Integration with General Education:**

- **Cross-curricular use of common classroom vocabulary in English**
- **Collaboration between bilingual and general education teachers**
- **A unified instructional team**

#### **Administrative and Policy Support:**

- **Strong support from school leadership and education policies at local, regional, and national levels**
- **English Coordinator as a key leadership role alongside the Principal**
- **Guaranteed funding and resources with no financial cap from Minga House Foundation**

#### **Research and Continuous Improvement:**

- **Ongoing research to identify best practices**



- **Membership in professional bilingual school associations in Colombia and the United States**
- **Continuous refinement based on feedback from students, parents, and educators**
- **Regular surveys and evaluations**

**By addressing these factors, schools can create strong bilingual programs that effectively promote bilingualism and biliteracy, preparing students for a globalized world.**

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## **Chinchiná Bilingüe 2026**

### **Defining a Bilingual School in Caldas**

**In Caldas, Colombia, bilingual schools are classified into different levels based on the intensity and quality of second-language instruction. While there is no universally established classification, the following general categories are commonly used:**

#### **Schools with a Bilingual Emphasis:**

- **Basic Level: Second-language classes offered a few hours per week**
  - **Instruction time: approximately 3–5 hours weekly**
- **Intermediate Level: Increased hours and some subjects taught in the second language**



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- **Instruction time: approximately 6–10 hours weekly**
- **Advanced Level: A significant portion of the curriculum taught in the second language, including core subjects such as science and math**
  - **Instruction time: approximately 10–15 hours weekly or more**

### **Fully Bilingual Schools:**

- **Partial Immersion: At least 50% of classes taught in the second language**
  - **Instruction time: approximately 15–20 hours weekly**
- **Total Immersion: Most or all of the curriculum taught in the second language**
  - **Instruction time: more than 20 hours weekly**

**These classifications may vary depending on institutional policies and regional or national education guidelines. It is recommended to contact schools directly or the Caldas Secretary of Education for accurate and up-to-date information.**



## Upcoming Projects in 2026

- **Full integration with all community preschools**
  - **HEBE, Bichos, Nuestra Señora Montessori**
- **Grade 12 program: preparation for studying abroad, language development, entrance exams, international visits, passport applications, scholarship applications, and more.**